

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were examined. No claims are amended. Claims 1-20 remain in the Application.

A. 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph: Rejection of Claims 1-20

The Patent Office rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Specifically, the Patent Office believes the specification does not support the limitation of claim 1 that a second portion of an interface material has a second thickness that is left on a first thickness of a first portion of an interface material. The Patent Office also believes that the specification does not support the limitation of claim 11 that the upper interface sections of a fourth layer have a thickness that is greater than a thickness of lower interface sections of a second layer.

With respect to the interface material of claim 1, Applicants believe the specification does support the claim. In one embodiment described in the Application, a first portion of an interface material is titanium nitride layer 44 formed as a portion of lower metal stack 36. The Application describes that titanium nitride layer 44 may have a thickness of, for example, between 50 and 100 angstroms. See Application, paragraph 0025. A second portion of an interface material is described in an example in the Application as titanium oxide layer 68 of upper metal stack 64. In one embodiment, titanium oxide layer 68 may be formed to a thickness of at least 150 angstroms. See Application, paragraph 0029. Thus, a thickness of titanium oxide layer 68 is greater than a thickness of titanium nitride layer 44.

With respect to claim 11, Applicants believe the analysis above with respect to titanium nitride layer 44 and titanium oxide layer 68 may be similarly applied to describe upper interface sections having a thickness that is greater than a thickness of a lower interface sections.

Claims 2-10 and 12-20 depend from claim 1 and claim 11, respectively. For the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 11, Applicants believe claims 2-10 and 12-20 comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicants

respectfully request that the Patent Office withdraw the rejection to claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

B. Corrected Claim Amendment

In reviewing the file history, Applicants became aware that the previous amendment to claim 11 was presented incorrectly. Accordingly, Applicants submit herewith a substituted claim set showing the amendments made in the previous Office Action. The substituted claim set is identical to the claim set presented May 11, 2005 with the inclusion of appropriate markings to show additions and deletions.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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10/27/05
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